

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A substrate for an information recording medium, which is formed of a glass containing, by mol%:

45 to 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 15 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 85 %;

2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , more than 0 but not more than 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 2 to 30 %;

more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , more than 0 but not more than 8 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , total content of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  being 2 to 15 %;

more than 0 but not more than 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , ratio of content of  $\text{CaO}$  to the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$  and  $\text{BaO}$  ( $\text{CaO}/(\text{MgO}+\text{CaO}+\text{SrO}+\text{BaO})$ ) is 0.5% or more;

the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  components in the glass being at least 95 mol%, the glass contains no  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , has a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of 600°C or higher and an etching rate of 0.1 μl/minute or less with regard to a hydrosilicofluoric acid aqueous solution maintained at a temperature of 45°C with the hydrosilicofluoric acid concentration of 1.72 % by weight.

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and has a chemically strengthened layer.

5. (withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 4, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 80 %, 1 to 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of  $\text{CaO}$  to the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$  and  $\text{BaO}$  being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , the total content of said components being at least 95 mol%.

6. (withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  as essential components and has a chemically strengthened layer,

7. (withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , 1 to 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , more than 0 but not more than 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 3 % of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of  $\text{CaO}$  to the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$  and  $\text{BaO}$  being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , the total content of said components being at least 95 mol%.

8. (withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, which is for use in a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

9. (withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1.

10. (withdrawn) The information recording medium as recited in claim 9, which is a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode magnetic recording medium.

11. (withdrawn) A process for manufacturing an information recording medium, which comprises the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium and uses the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1 as said substrate, said step comprising the procedure of heating said substrate to a temperature of 300 to 600°C.

12.-13. (canceled).

14. (withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 4.

15. (withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 5.

16. (withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 6.

17. (withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 7.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 50 to 67 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 2 to 12

% of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 79 %, 3 to 20 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , more than 0 but not more than 14% of  $\text{BaO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , ~~more than 0 but not more than 0~~ 0 to 10 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 8 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 3 to 30 %, more than 0 but not more than 5 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5 % to 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  being 4 to 12 %, more than 0 but not more than 10 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and 0 to 8 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ .